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Circular Letter # 93

May 19, 1904

To the Teachers of English:

Public Schools of Porto Rico

My dear friends:

The current school year is drawing to a close. I trust that it has been a pleasant and profitable one for you and your pupils.

The importance of the work in English as the foundation work in the public schools of a people who will necessarily acquire English as a practical working language more and more as time goes on, is a matter which has often been brought to your attention. To do the best work it is necessary that you understand the people with whom you are working, and to that end it is certainly expedient for you to acquire, as rapidly as possible, a speaking knowledge of the Spanish language. While I doubt not that most of you have given some time to the systematic study of Spanish, we should like to have some evidence of that fact in considering your eligibility for re-appointment next year.

For that reason you are offered an opportunity to take an examination in Spanish. This examination, originally announced for May 7, was necessarily postponed. It will be given Saturday, June 4 at 8 A. M., either by the Superintendents may arrange.

Teachers of English who are re-appointed for next year, and have served at least six month in the public schools of Porto Rico, will receive the maximum salary of sixty dollars per school month, beginning with the next school year. In making these re-appointments, the marks obtained in the examination in Spanish to be given on June 4 will be taken into consideration.

I desire also to state that the salary of teachers of English assigned to teach grades, will be fixed for the next school year at sixty dollars per month, which will also be the salary fixed for graded Porto Rican teachers teaching grades in the English language.

Yours very truly,

Samuel M. Lindsay

Commissioner

MDH